

GREENLEE COUNTY LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREA

Geography

Greenlee is Arizona's smallest county in terms of population and the second smallest in terms of land area. (Santa Cruz County has the smallest land area). Additionally, Greenlee is one of the few Arizona counties whose population has actually decreased over the years, but is now posting a population increase (but these increases that were gained in the 90's were still slower than those gains predicted by the DES Population Statistics Department). Slow population growth rates for Greenlee County are largely caused by the slowdown in the mining industry, which Greenlee is dependent upon.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Rank</u>
1920	15,362	8 of 14
1950	12,805	12 of 14
1980	11,406	15 of 15
1990	8,008	15 of 15
2000	8,547	15 of 15

Population

According to the most recent official population figures, produced by the U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 numbers show 8,547 people reside in Greenlee County. This resident population accounts for less than .2 percent of Arizona's total population. In the ten years since the 1990 census, Greenlee County's population grew by 6.7 percent, or roughly 0.7 percent annually compared to the state as a whole which grew over 40 percent for the decade. Clifton is the largest city in the county, with an estimated population of 2,596. Duncan is the next largest, with an estimated population of 812.

Income

According to data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis from 1990 to 1999, local total personal income in Greenlee County increased 64.7 percent compared to the State's roughly 90 percent. On a per capita basis, the gain of 46.8 percent was 0.5 percent higher than the State's growth of 46.3 percent. Greenlee County per capita income was \$19,237 in 1999, about 76.4 percent of the state average, up from 76.1 percent in 1990. Average earnings per job increased by 0.6 percent in 1999 and was 13.2 percent higher than the state's level.

Labor Force

The Greenlee County labor force fell roughly 3.2 percent each year from 1995 to 2000. Greenlee's employment figures fell at an annual average rate of nearly 3

percent. This affected the unemployment rate downward from 6.7 percent in 1995 to 5.6 percent in 2000.

Employment

Total non-farm employment in Greenlee County declined by about 0.3 percent per year between 1995 and 2000. The largest growth occurred in services that had average annual growth of 17.2 percent for the period. Construction had an average gain of 2.8 percent. Mining and trade had similar increases of 0.3 and 0.4 percent per year for the period. Two industry groups saw average decreases for the period. Government and transportation, communications & public utilities all show average losses for the period, but in total only accounted for a loss of 100 jobs since 1995. Fifty-eight percent of the jobs in the county are in mining (mostly copper mining). All other industries pale by comparison. Construction accounts for nearly 13.6 percent of the total, government 13.6 percent, and trade 7.1 percent. All other industries combined account for the remaining 7.7 percent.

Growing and Declining

The most rapidly growing industry in the year 2000 was heavy construction, except highway (+374 jobs). The next fastest growing industry was grocery stores (+76 jobs). The only industry to register a decline was trucking and courier services (except air) (-24 jobs).

Forecast

Research Administration is forecasting employment to grow 1.1 percent in PY 01-02 and another 2.6 percent in PY 02-03. Countywide unemployment is expected to glide down from the PY 00-01 rate of 6.5 percent to 6.3 percent in PY 01-02 and then to 6.2 percent in PY 02-03.

Issues of Concern

- Low population growth rate
- Decreasing labor force
- Increasing unemployment

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security, Research Administration, November 2001.